



VETERANS DAY CEREMONY: Join our veterans and the Daughters of the American Revolution at 11 a.m. Monday, November 11 at the Highway of Flags as they salute those who have served our country. Guest speakers include North Township Trustee Frank J. Mrvan and Highland Clerk-Treasurer Michael Griffin.

GAZEBOEXPRESS

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GROUNDBREAKING: Highland officials (from right) Police Cmdr. John Banasiak, Town Council President Steve Wagner and Fire Chief Bill Timmer join North Township Trustee Frank J. Mrvan to break ground for a new memorial honoring fallen first responders at Wicker Memorial Park. Dean Savarino, president of Dean's Landscaping in Schererville, as well as Kevin Nurdyke and Shelley Marshall of Hillside Funeral Home in Highland, have created a rendering and video of the monument (shown above right). 🐦

FALLEN HEROES MEMORIAL

It was just a little more than a year ago when Highland Police Cmdr. John Banasiak approached North Township Trustee Frank J. Mrvan about the idea of a monument dedicated to fallen police officers, firefighters and emergency medical service personnel at Wicker Memorial Park.

"Highland has, sadly, lost two police officers in the line of duty," Banasiak said. "Our town has named parks in memory of Donald R. Sheppard and Robert J. Markley, but I wanted to do more to ensure those in the township who've made the ultimate sacrifice are never forgotten."

Mrvan embraced the plan and began working with Banasiak to assemble a coalition of first responders from Whiting, East Chicago, Hammond, Munster and Highland.

"Since it was dedicated nearly a century ago, Wicker Memorial Park has been a serene setting for people to honor those who have given their lives in service to our country," Mrvan said. "It seems fitting for the park to also be a place to memorialize our first responders." 🐦

HOW TO HELP ...

North Township first responders are looking for an outpouring of support from the community to make the dream of a fallen first responders memorial a reality.

Whether it's an investment in a brick or a bench, your donation will help us create a monument in their honor. 🐦

Please visit NTTfallenheroes.org for a walk-through of the Fallen Heroes memorial and learn how you can help.

COUNCIL OKS FULLY-FUNDED 2020 BUDGET

For the last decade, the Town Council and Clerk-Treasurer Michael Griffin created cash reserves that would save thousands of dollars in borrowing costs while protecting from expected – and unexpected – downturns in revenues.

The issue was of such import the council passed a law seven years ago requiring five-month reserves in most funds and four-month reserves in redevelopment.

That prudence is paying off as town officials passed a \$23.5 million spending plan for 2020 that will use an estimated \$1.5 million in reserves to tackle short-falls caused by the state's circuit breaker tax caps, which go into effect in Lake County next year.

Griffin testified before state lawmakers a year ago on the crippling impact the circuit breaker would have on communities, such as Highland, which have multiple taxing units, minimal land open for economic development and an abundance of residential properties.

The reason: the state caps residential property taxes at 1 percent, 2 percent for farmland and 3 percent for business property and equipment.

The hope is Indiana lawmakers will work to remedy shortcomings in the law during the spring session. 🐦



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